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and said that, if those two canals were widened and deepened, it would be affording a permanent protection to the wet lands. He therefore requested that the work might be ordered to be taken up and completed at an early date.

The Member also requested that a proper road should be constructed so as to connect Kottayam with Vetchur, either through Kumarakom or through Olesha and Parippu, and also three bridges on the road from Vycome to Vetchur. The bridges were required over the Maramveetil Thodu, the Vellayil Thodu and the Anchumuna Thodu.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

73. *Opening of a canal near the Lekshmipuram Market.*

Mr. Kanakku Narayanan Kesavan (Member, Kottayam Taluk) said that the Lekshmipuram Market, opened five or six years ago, was decreasing in importance on account of the absence of proper roads and canals in the vicinity. In view to develop the market, he requested that a canal be opened near the market, connecting the *puncha* lands in the eastern and western parts of the Nattagom Proverthy.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

74. *Widening of the canal from Kollapalli Padom to Parakal Kadavu.*

Mr. Parameswaran Iravi (Member, Changanacherry Taluk) said that about 30,000 paras of paddy lands in the taluk depended for water upon a small canal, about 12 miles long, running through the midst of these lands from Kollappalli Padom in the Kurumbanedam Kara in the Changanacheri taluk to the Parakal Kadavu in the Nattagom Proverthy in the Kottayam taluk. The canal was in many places narrow, silted up and shallow. Six canals from the Changanacherry taluk and seven canals from the Kottayam taluk entered this canal as tributaries. The canal in question being very narrow, the large volume of water that found its way into the canal overflowed both the banks, and much damage was caused to the cultivated lands on either side, to the great hardship of the ryots. The Member said that the improvement of this canal was one of the eleven works (No. 5) recommended by the Members of the Kottayam Division at the Fifth Assembly, and it was thus engaging the attention of the Government. He requested that the canal might be extended by another three miles and the work expedited, as the canal, if improved, would be of great use not only to agriculture, but also to trade and communication, and also for bathing and drinking purposes.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

75. *Means of communication in the Meenachil taluk.*

Mr. C. Mathan Mappilla (Member, Meenachil Taluk) said that the people of the Meenachil taluk were all

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agriculturists and the produce of the land had to be carried over to neighbouring fairs or market towns through jungle foot-paths. One or two roads that existed were practically useless, as there were no feeder-roads to connect them with the *pakuthies* in the interior of the taluk. The Member said that the Dewan had promised to look into the affair, when he visited the taluk in 1084, and at the Fifth Session of the Assembly the Chief Engineer was asked to meet the Members of the Kottayam Division in conference to ascertain the most important requirements of the taluk. As a result, a list was drawn up of the important works to be undertaken in the Division by the Public Works Department, and in that list was included the construction of roads in Meenachil. To the possible objection on the score of want of finance, the Member suggested that the Government might adopt the policy of divisional finance in their Budget allotments. The Member concluded by saying that the following were the most important requirements of the taluk, *viz.*, (1) the reconstruction of the ruined bridges on the Lalam–Poonjar road and the construction of a new bridge over the Meenachil river in the Lalam-Ponkunnam road and (2) the widening of the following village foot-paths into feeder cart–roads, *viz.*,

(i) From the Sirkar English School in Bharananganom to Payika in the Lalam-Ponkunnam road.

(ii) From Erattupettah to the Meenachil Proverthy Cutcherry.

(iii) From the Thidanad Pagoda to the Bharananganom English School, crossing Vilanguparakkadavu.

(iv) From Vellapad to the Kuravilangad road.

(v) From the Mankombu road to Kadanad.

(vi) From the Pala Bazaar to the Koothattukulam road through the Ramapuram Proverthy Cutcherry.

(vii) From the 16th mile-stone on the Kottayam–Peermade road to the Mutholi landing place.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

76. Prohibiting the poisoning of certain rivers in the Meenachil taluk for fishing purposes during the summer season.

Mr. K. P. Narayana Pillai (Member, Nominated) said that the people of Poonjar and the neighbouring places depended for their supply of drinking water on the small rivers running in those places, such as the Poonjar, Kavanar, Teekoilar, Meenachilar, Pullukayar and the Velunar, and those rivers ceased to flow during the hot months of the year when water could only be had from hollows and ponds in the beds of the rivers, where water stagnated. The Member said that the water of these ponds was being poisoned

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